GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5910
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
EXPORT OF CHALK POWDER IN PLACE OF DRUG
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a): whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence caught 3 containers of chalk powder in place of bulk drug export from Inland Container Depot (ICD), Hyderabad under scheme of duty drawback;

(b): if so, the details with the persons involved therein;

(c): the number of containers exported by the customs agent during the last one year from Hyderabad and what action taken/being taken against the agent;and

(d): the other steps taken by the Government against guilty persons and official of Customs involved in the fraud?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b) : Two containers of chalk powder destined to Dubai attempted to be exported under Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme declared as Naproxen (Bulk Drugs),were seized by Dte. of Revenue Intelligence at Mumbai (JNPT Docks) on 15.1.2001. Declarec value of the goods in above two containers was Rs. 726 crores. Investigations done so far indicate involvementof 5 persons in the fraudulent export. Further investigations are in progress.

(c): During the last one year, the particular Custom House agent who handled the consignment of chalk powder misdeclared as Naproxen, handled export of 20 containers of different goods belonging to different exporters, through Hyderabad Customs & Central Excise commissionerate.

Pending investigation in the matter, the Custom House Agent`s license has been suspended.

(d) : 5 Customs officials suspected to be involved in the case have been placed under suspension. disciplinary proceedings against them and penal action under Customs Act against the persons as are found involved in this fraudulent export under Drawback claim will be initiated on completion of investigations.